

any intervening, claim. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 34-36 have been added.

In reviewing the Office Action Summary prepared by the Examiner, it was noted that the Examiner failed to acknowledge Applicants' claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). As the first sentence of the present application contains a claim for the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/071,604 filed on January 16, 1998 and as the Declaration submitted by the Applicants on June 12, 1998 contains a claim, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), for the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/071,604, the Applicants have fully satisfied all of the requirements for establishing a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants' claim for domestic priority in the next Communication mailed to the Applicants.

Claims 1, 3-8, 17 and 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,577,205 to Hwang et al. and Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hwang et al. In response, the Applicants respectfully traverse the various rejections of Claims 1-8, and 17-27 and instead submits that Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 17-27, as above amended, as well as newly added Claims 34-36, are patentably distinguishable over the art of record. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections of Claims 1-8 and 17-27 and the allowance of Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 17-27, as above amended, as well as newly added Claims 34-36.

The Applicants have invented and claim a computer network comprised of a plurality of interconnected DTE devices, each comprised of a computing system located at a first location and a human interface, typically, a video monitor, keyboard, mouse and printer, remotely located relative to the computing system. Each DTE device includes a first interface device coupled to the computing system, a second interface device coupled to the human interface and a transmission line

therebetween. In various embodiments thereof, selected video and non-video signals are combined at the first interface device, propagated over the transmission line as a combined video/non-video signal and transported to the second interface where the combined video/non-video signal is separated into the original video and non-video signals.

The cited art has been carefully reviewed but is not considered to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as disclosed and claimed herein. More specifically, the Examiner cites Hwang et al. as disclosing, in its broadest sense, a computer network for connecting a plurality of human interfaces and input/output devices to a plurality of remote computers. However, as per Claims 8, 17 and 22, the Examiner cites Hwang et al. as further disclosing "a video signal to be transmitted to said video monitor and a non-video signal to be transmitted to said at least one I/O device and **combining said video and said non-video signals into a first combined signal.**" Page 5, lines 15-19 of the Examiner's Action dated April 12, 1999, emphasis added by Applicants. In support of the aforementioned further characterization of Hwang et al., the Examiner makes reference to "Figs. 1-3, network connections and TEAM panels between the TEAMMATE terminals 1-3 and TEAMPRO chassis, column 8, line 8 to column 10, line 65."

In view of the Examiner's further characterization of Hwang et al., the Applicants have carefully reviewed the reference but have failed to find any teaching or suggestion of combining video and non-video signals into a first combined signal. Indeed, Applicants' review of Hwang et al. has revealed that the opposite is true. More specifically, Fig. 1 discloses that each remotely located device (monitor and keyboard) for either a "TEAMATE" or a "TEAMHUB" computer has a separate connecting cable respectively labeled "VGA cable" and "KB cable." In support of this characterization of Fig. 1 of Hwang et al., the Examiner's attention is directed to col. 6, lines 1-6 which provides that "[t]here are two lines or cables connected to each

TEAMMATE computer electronics and to the TEAMHUB computer electronics that extend externally of the TEAMPRO chassis. One such cable for each computer is the VGA monitor cable and the other such cable for each computer is the keyboard cable.” While Hwang et al. notes that all eight cables pass through a switching mechanism known as the “teampanel”, the passage extending from col. 6, line 66 through col. 7, line 10 of Hwang et al. clearly indicates that teampanel is used for the respective switching of keyboard or monitor signals and not to the propagation of any combined keyboard/monitor signal. For example, the cited passage suggests that the teampanel may be used to enable the TEAMHUB operator to: (1) display, on the TEAMHUB monitor, any display currently appearing on any of the TEAMMATE computers or (2) assume control over any TEAMMATE keyboard.

For all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art neither teaches nor suggests the invention as defined in Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 17-27. Accordingly, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections of these claims are respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with the Applicants’ characterization of the Hwang et al. reference and maintains that Hwang et al. discloses the combining of a video signal and a non-video signal into a combined video/non-video signal, the Applicants respectfully ask that the Examiner point out, with greater particularity, where Hwang et al. discloses such a teaching.

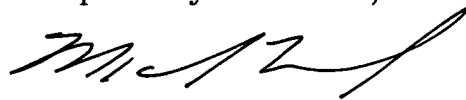
The Applicants kindly thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 14-16 and 31-33 and for indicating that Claims 9-13 and 28-30 are allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, Claims 9 and 28 have been rewritten in the requested fashion. Accordingly, Claims 9-13 and 28-30 are now in conditional for allowance.

Finally, further by this Amendment, new Claims 34-36 have been added. Claim 34 is similar to amended Claim 1 but is narrower in that the video signal combined with the data signal is selected from one of at least two video signals. In

this regard, it is similar to, but significantly broader than the multiple video signal embodiment disclosed in allowed Claims 11 and 30. Claim 35 is similar to Claim 9 but is broader in that a single interface device performs the two claimed combining operations and in that two, rather than three, non-video signals are combined into a combined non-video signal. Finally, Claim 36 is similar to allowed Claim 14 but is broader in that the cable is comprised of "a plurality of transmission lines" rather than the four transmission lines recited in Claim 14. The Applicants respectfully submit that each of Claims 34, 35 and 36 are allowable for the reasons of record with respect to Claims 1, 9 and 14, respectively.

This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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